



# Illinois Recreational Access Program

## SUMMARY

### Hunting Access

- Spring **YOUTH ONLY Turkey Hunting** is the only type of hunting available through IRAP.
- Dates - Three turkey seasons are being targeted for youth hunters: (Landowner may choose any combination of seasons)
  1. Youth Turkey Season (Mar 31-Apr 1, 2012 South: April 7-8, 2012 North)
    - Hunters will be allowed access the seven days before the season for scouting purposes.
  2. Turkey Season 3 (April 20-25, 2012 South: April 27-May 2, 2012 North)
    - Hunters will be allowed access the day before the season begins for scouting purposes.
  3. Turkey Season 4 (April 26-May 2, 2012 South: May 3-9, 2012 North)
    - Hunters will be allowed access the day before the season begins for scouting purposes.
- Each hunt site will only have two people, the youth turkey hunter and the adult guardian
- Number of hunt sites to be determined by the IRAP Coordinator based on the available habitat as well as access points to the property (There may be multiple hunt sites per large properties; i.e. 2 hunt sites on one property allowing for two youth hunters and adult guardians on the property at the same time).
- Seasons 1, 2, 5, are not eligible to be enrolled into the program. These seasons remain available for the landowner/leaser use.
- An IRAP Youth hunter must apply for a specific county in which they would like to hunt. (Max 2 choices per application)
- The youth hunter and adult guardian must obtain all necessary permits and licenses as outlined in the IL Digest of Hunting/Trapping Regs.
- IRAP signs will be placed at designated parking areas and the property boundaries will be marked using additional signage and/or purple paint (new no trespassing law) as needed.
- Each hunter may be placed into an IRAP lottery in each county to determine which hunt site that they will be able to access.
- Successful youth hunters will be notified approximately 3-4 weeks prior to the start of their requested IRAP spring turkey season hunt date.

### Other IRAP Access Opportunities

- Other programs through IRAP include **OUTDOOR NATURALIST, POND FISHING, RIVER BANK FISHING, and NON-MOTORIZED BOAT** access (only eligible along Illinois public waterways).
- *Outdoor naturalist* is for outdoor photography and bird watching, and access is only allowed Fri – Mon during May 15- Sept 15, sunrise to sunset.
- The *fishing and boat access* programs are allowed Fri-Mon, during April 1 – Sept 30, sunrise to sunset.
- All IRAP participants must have an IRAP permit/ID number and reserve location/date online prior to using sites.
- A limited number of individuals will be allowed to access the property on any given day.
- All traffic will be restricted to **foot traffic only** and non-motorized watercraft.
- All fishing areas have to be evaluated by a DNR fisheries biologist to ensure adequate fish habitat and banks are safe for a good fishing.

### Habitat Improvement and Incentives

- Landowners who enroll into the turkey hunting program for 3 years become eligible for a wildlife management plan to be established or have an existing plan updated for their property enrolled in IRAP, focusing on forest management. There are other habitat incentives for pond management.
- Forest management plan will be written to the standards of the EQIP. Management plans will address invasive species, opening of the canopy, natural oak/hickory forest regeneration, etc.
- With the 3 year agreement, IRAP can assist the landowner with project funding to cover management practice implementation.
- Landowners will receive a stipend for each turkey season and/or other IRAP activities they allow public access.

### Other Information

- Each IRAP participant is required to sign a liability waiver at the time when they apply for the youth turkey hunt.
- Liability for hunting activities on state leased land is covered under the State of Illinois Recreational Use of Leased Land Act, 745 ILCS 67.
- In addition liability insurance coverage (\$2 million liability) will be provided for landowners through IRAP for IRAP access activities only.
- Landowners may withdraw from the program at any time during the year with a 30 day written notice (incentive payments would be prorated)
- IRAP payments to landowners will be made in December following the approved activities for the calendar year.

North Turkey Zone

South Turkey Zone

IRAP eligible counties

[www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP)